Boston, April 15. 1860.

Dear Mr. Webb;

A few days ago, the "Advocate" came to hand. We all think you did well in giving Geo. Thompson's Speech in full. The remarks on Mr. Seward are much to the point, and the extracts from his Speech were well chosen*. Some day or two later we had papers, giving F. Douglass's reply to G. T. I have not yet read it. W. L. G. has, and speaks of it as infernally able, ingenious, false, and malignant. Yesterday I recd., thro' Mrs. Chapman, the paper you sent me (containing F. D.'s speech), and your note of March 30. – a pleasant little episode of your company, seeming as fresh and natural as if you had run in to the Office; (walked I should have said,) and sat down for a little talk with us. Garrison was by, & we enjoyed it together.

I am glad you and Horner have met; but am saddened to hear your confirmation of our previous information as to his poor health. He wrote to Whipple that he had serious thoughts of leaving England, & going to some of the Pacific islands, I believe. He will be a great loss to our Cause in England. We shall do what we can towards filling up the gaps in your "Standard" file. It is a good work. I personally have been a subscriber to it from the beginning. I possess (I doubt not) every number. What I shall bye & bye do with the set,

* In printing my letter, your types represent me as saying that Seward's Speech is "calm & passionate", for dispassionate; the more noticeable, as the Advocate so seldom makes an error of the sort.

I have not determined. Strange to say, our Boston A.S.
Office has not a complete file. Previous to Wallcut's
coming into the office (in 1846), no file had been kept.
He has made many efforts, and spent much time,
to obtain a complete set, but is far from it as yet.
Very likely you can help us to odd nos. — I will
send you a copy of the photograph from Brackett's
Bust of John Brown, as you request. The *Zion's*
Herald for Mrs. Palmer shall be attended to, also.

And now I come to the more immediate
object of this present writing:

By the same Ship [Steamer] which takes
this letter, I design sending to you a pretty valuable
box of Books, and Pamphlets - Anti Slavery. It will
be addressed to you ~~name~~ - [for who but you, both can,
and will, attend to such a labour, for our cause's
sake, as is involved herein?] in the care of S. R.
Graves, Baltic Building, Liverpool. The contents of
this box are a Donation from the American Anti Sl:
Society to the Cause and Its Friends in England; and
the history of its getting up is briefly this. When the Rev.
S. J. May returned home last autumn, he very urgently
desired the Exec. Comtee of the Amn. A.S. Society to send to each
of eight or ten places, which he named, a selection of
good Anti Slavery works, such as their resources and
means might enable them to ~~do~~ give, which, being placed
in the care of a competent and friendly person,

might do a very useful work by being put and kept in circulation, and might also prove in some case, or cases, the nucleus of a larger and permanent A. S. Library. The Committee thought exceedingly well of the suggestion, and, after a time, voted to comply therewith, and appointed a Special Committee to attend to it. Many things have prevented an earlier attention to the matter; but now, at length, the box is filled, and is ready to go. In each of the books &c. I have caused to be pasted a little label, thus

"Anti Slavery Library of   "

leaving the blank to be filled, according to the distribution. This mark identifies each volume, and ~~makes~~ shows its intended & proper use, - & will perhaps help to keep the vols. from getting lost, and ~~[illegible]~~ serve to quicken an interest in the cause.

The places named by S. J. M. as depositories for these little collections were not ~~exactly~~ those which the Comtee wd. prefer in all respects; and again, those wh. we would name are not perhaps the most desirable; and we therefore wish to leave it in a measure to your judgment, what the ultimate destination of these books shall be. We name however the eight places which seem to us most eligible; vizt. Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Manchester, Bristol, London, Dublin, Wakefield. Of the first seven named, we feel no doubt; the eighth we hesitate about – 1st. Because of its proximity to Leeds, where one collection shd. be placed; 2d. Because of its smaller size; but, chiefly, 3d. Because Mr. Horner may go away, and we kn not who, in that case, would take charge of it. Other places thought of are Liverpool and Birmingham, both of which were on S. J. M.'s List. He also named Sheffield, and the Re Charles Wootten to be the library-keeper; and Hackney, near London, where I think Rev. Mr. Aspland is. The London collection we desire to have sent to Rev. William E. Bonner, whose address is, Spring Cottage, Upper Bland Street, Dover Road, London, S.E. You may, & probably will, know of reasons for varying from the list I have named, and substituting new places for some of those abovementioned. If so, you are entirely free to make the change. A very essential condition in determining for or against any locality, would be whether or not a good librarian could be found.

"Now, here's a fine job of work" – you will say. Yes we know it. It has been something of a labour to get these books together. It will be perhaps quite as great a one, to distribute them. But, so far as the mechanical labour of sorting, parcelling, and getting off the various lots is concerned, you must hire assistance and charge us. But some correspondence previous to sending, must take place between you and ~~each~~ some ~~place~~ individual in each place selected, – in which you will need to mention the plan & its origin, the object & uses, &c. Any suggestions you see fit to make touching rules for lending the books, &c. will of course be well; but if the Keeper of the books is a man or woman [and generally I should prefer women to men for the business] interested in the cause, the general discretion & responsibility could be safely, & would be best, left with them. These little Collections might be migratory, too, to some extent; for instance, the Dublin Collection, after a time, could go to Waterford.

With one or two exceptions, I have not sent fewer than 8 cop of any work; of a considerable proportion, I have sent more – 10 a 12 copies.

* In printing my letter, your types represent me as saying that Seward's Speech is "calm & passionate", for dispassionate; the more noticeable, as the Advocate so seldom makes an error of the sort.

MS B.1.6 v.6 p.20

April 16th You will see, on opening the Box, that Mr. Wallcut has sent you quite a lot of Standards towards making up yr. file, — So much that we strike off, from your list of Nos. wanting, the whole of Vols. 16. 17. 18. 19. & 20; and we reduce Vol. 15. to 2 Nos. only (28. & 31.) and Vol. 14. to Nos. 27–33, & 35.

I think you are mistaken (in your Note of Mar. 10.) in thinking that we launch our sons into life so very easily here. I dare say there is not the same amount of thought and counsel together, about it, in families here; but, in many cases, there is a great deal of anxiety felt. Young men here, oftener perhaps than in older countries, take the business into their own hands and go off to seek their fortunes. It has been a cause of very great solicitude to me, — even to a painful degree, — to have my son go off so far. It is rather longer than usual since we have heard from him, and we begin to fear that he may be settling down in business in China; — just what we ought to be glad of! So perverse is human nature! But the fact is, he had written he was coming home, and we were all glad, and to be so soon notified of a change in his plans was rather trying. I am afraid we shall not see him at present. My best regards to Richard who, I hope, will find a good place soon.

And now for a word which I think will gratify you — Garrison has pretty much decided that he will go, (for the last time) — to England, and spend the summer partly in G. Britain, partly on the Continent. He has not yet engaged his passage, but will probably sail from here on the 16th May in the Europa, and touch English soil once more ~~again~~ before the month ends.

MS. B.1.6 v.8 p.22

Do not, however, as yet give any *publicity* to this, as the matter is not yet definitely settled. Possibly H. C. Wright will accompany him, as G. hates to go alone. — He and others have said a great deal to me about going, and the Exec. Com. have kindly voted their recommendation and request that I should go; and I feel I need the trip. But I am held back mainly by family considerations — 1. The doubtfulness about my son's return. 2. My father's age & quite infirm health. 3. My wife's very poor health. — The latter would be a reason for going, if she had strength and spirits to accompany me, which I make quite a *sine quâ non* of going at all. — But Garrison will rejoice to see you all again, and his heart is full of uttering his word once again in England and Scotland and Ireland. And I am sure he will do much good. The snake-like and deceptive course of Fred. Douglass will not be so easy for him, with Garrison's eye upon him, and his clear moral vision pointing out his sinuous and villainous ways. — *Douglass is both a coward and a traitor.* *The proof of this, in the matter for which he is now a fugitive from America will some day doubtless see the light.* At present, let things work as they may.

One week from to-day the Democrats nominate their Presidential Candidate. I predict it will be Stephen Arnold Douglas of Illinois, as low-minded and unprincipled a man as lives. He is hated by a great many Southerners, but he is the only man (I think) who can carry enough Northern States to ensure success, and the Democrats will swallow their own venom rather than see the "Black Republicans" succeed.

As you say, the prospects of the Nation and of the Anti-Sl. Cause are not brilliant. I don't understand Mrs. Chapman any better than you do. *Entre nous*, she is so much on stilts, in her language! that few of us know her meaning. But she is far-sighted, — very apt to be right, — accomplishes great things for the cause. — Still, I believe our Cause is on the gain and advance. Truly & aff'ly Yrs. S. May Jr.

Caroline, Anne, Lucia, & Emma Weston are now in Rome — or were, at a very late date. Emma was soon to accompany her brother Warren to London, on his way back to America, — and would of course stay in London awhile. — Mrs. Chapman is at Weymouth, at her mother's. I hear nothing said of her return to France. —

I have ordered a Newport (Ky.) News, — the weekly paper, — to be sent to
"Miss Smith, Glenageragh House, Dalkey, Dublin Ireland"
and paid $3. for the same. There is also a daily paper. — I recently sent you a number of it — of the weekly, I think.

I greatly sorrow to hear of Mary Estlin's indifferent health. I think she must abandon all continuous mental labour for some time. It is most fortunate, I think, that Miss Whitelegge can be with her.

I have tried, again & again & again, to prevail on H.C. Wright not to shock, & rudely assail, all ~~others~~ people's religious & reverential ideas & associations, as he does. I suppose he can't help it. There is enough here, most certainly, to make the very stones cry out. But I think he doesn't really help the matter by his peculiar method of ~~x~~ speech. He knows I think so; but very many, as good as I, or better, think differently. He thinks differently. He is quite a trial to me.

MS.B.1.6 v.8, p.20